

Founded in San Antonio, Texas, in 1993 by Ms. Eleanor "Mama Starks," the 100 Black Women of Funeral Service provides African American mortuary students and funeral service professionals with an excellent opportunity to work together and learn from each other. Its membership has grown to include the United States, Canada, and various African and Caribbean nations. Among the many honors that 100 Black Women of Funeral Service members have received are The President's Award and The Living Legend Award. Networking, sisterhood, scholarship, mentoring, leadership, service, and professional development are the tenets of the 100 Black Women of Funeral Service as it continues to provide support to those entering the funeral service profession.

Every 5 years, the African American Funeral Home Hall of Fame recognizes the important work performed by African Americans in the funeral service industry. This year, 26 funeral homes from across the country were inducted into the African American Funeral Home Hall of Fame. These inductees have been serving their communities for over 100 years and are still operated by third to sixth generation family members. This is truly incredible.

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the following funeral homes on their recent induction into the African American Funeral Home Hall of Fame: Joseph Locks Funeral Home of Baltimore, Maryland (founded in 1837); Carl Miller Funeral Home of Camden, New Jersey (founded in 1861); JW Wilkerson Funeral Establishment of Petersburg, Virginia (founded in 1874); Gertrude Geddes-Willis Funeral Home of New Orleans, Louisiana (founded in 1879); Berry and Gardner Funeral Home of Franklin, Tennessee (founded in 1882); Charbonnet-Labat Funeral Home of New Orleans, Louisiana (founded in 1883); Rhodes Funeral Home of New Orleans, Louisiana (founded in 1884); Jarnigan and Son Mortuary of Knoxville, Tennessee (founded in 1886); Hutchings Funeral Home of Macon, Georgia (founded in 1895); Grays Funeral Home of Cape Charles, Virginia (founded in 1895); Davenport and Harris Funeral Home of Birmingham, Alabama (founded in 1899); Mrs. JW Jones Memorial Chapel of Kansas City, Kansas (founded in 1899); James E. Churchman, Jr. Funeral Home of Newark, New Jersey (founded in 1899); Cox Bros Funeral Home of Atlanta, Georgia (founded in 1900); Elliott Funeral Home of Albany, Georgia (founded in 1900); Stewart Funeral Home of Washington, DC (founded in 1900); Collins Funeral Home of Jackson, Mississippi (founded in 1903); Diehl-Whittaker Funeral Service of Columbus, Ohio (founded in 1905); EF Boyd and Son Funeral Home and Crematory in Cleveland, Ohio (founded in 1905); Marion Daniels and Sons Funeral Home of New York City (founded in 1905); Larkin and Scott Funeral Home (founded in 1905); Larkin and Scott Funeral Home of Demopolis, Alabama (founded in 1907); Murray Henderson Funeral Home of New Orleans, Louisiana (founded in 1909); Lewis Funeral Home of San Antonio, Texas (founded in 1909); and Scott's Funeral Home of Richmond, Virginia (founded in 1910).

Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the rich history of African Americans in the funeral service profession, I would like to thank the 100 Black Women of Funeral Service and the 2010 African American Funeral Home Hall of Fame inductees for all that they have done,

and continue to do, for their communities and the funeral service tradition.

EXTENDING CONDOLENCES TO VICTIMS OF FIRE IN ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I join my colleagues in mourning the devastating losses Israel suffered in the Carmel fire. It is a human tragedy and an environmental tragedy.

As we pay tribute to those who gave their lives in an effort to save others, we can at least find comfort in the wave of international support and assistance that enabled Israel to extinguish the massive fire within days. The United States is proud to have played a leading role in these efforts by procuring and delivering the massive quantities of firefighting materials that were used in multiple sorties over the affected areas.

We rallied to Israel's side because she is a close ally and friend. And so many other countries eagerly responded as well because, quite frankly—Israel is among the first to offer aid when others are in need.

After earthquakes in Haiti, Chile, Colombia, Turkey, China, Pakistan and Iran, Israelis were among the first to join the rescue missions or send supplies. They have helped Cyprus and Greece in battling forest fires and provided aid in the aftermath of Central American floods, Asian typhoons, and the tragic 2004 tsunami. An Israeli team arrived in Louisiana shortly after our own Hurricane Katrina.

Sadly, one casualty of the Carmel fire is Yemin Orde, a youth village founded in 1953 to accommodate orphans who immigrated to Israel after the Holocaust. Today, the campus is home to more than 500 children from ages 9 to 19 that have been resettled from Russia, Ethiopia, and elsewhere where they lived in orphanages, had no family to care for them, or experienced traumatic life events. While the children and staff were safely evacuated as the fire broke out, more than 40 percent of the village's facilities were destroyed by the flames and many children had to relive the trauma of being suddenly uprooted from their familiar world. I have been to Yemin Orde. I share their sorrow and their conviction to ensure that these vulnerable children and the school's vital mission continue to be cared for now and in the future.

U.S. teams are already on the ground working with Israeli experts to stabilize the area and make sure that the forest can be successfully replanted. Today, communities across the United States are mobilizing through the Jewish National Fund and other organizations to help Israel preserve, replant and restore. The blue box of the JNF was a permanent feature in my parents' home, collecting coins to plant trees in the budding state of Israel and its mission continues in earnest. With partnership and determination we can look forward to a day when the Carmel forest will flourish again.

As Israelis survey the devastation in Carmel, they can take solace that they were not alone at a time of crisis and that they will not be alone in the rebuilding effort.

RECOGNIZING TEXAS WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY JACK AND JO
WILLA MORTON FITNESS CEN-
TER

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the opening and dedication of Texas Wesleyan University's Jack and Jo Willa Morton Fitness Center. The new fitness center will serve to enhance the quality of student life on campus by providing a place where students can gather and meet friends, while achieving their own personal fitness goals.

Initial support provided by Texas Wesleyan University alumnus, Jack and Jo Willa Morton, was used to leverage additional private funds necessary for construction of the \$3 million, 9,900 sq. ft. fitness center. The facility will include a 2,317 sq. ft. Weights and Cardio Room with free weights, weight machines, cardio machines, treadmills, recumbent bikes, and other resistance machines; two aerobics/dance classrooms that can be used as clinical spaces for the Athletic Training Education Program (ATEP); a front lobby lounge area for student socialization/relaxation; student and staff locker rooms; offices for the Center's staff and faculty of the Athletic Training Education Program as well as a front desk check-in area and various storage and facility management areas.

The new Center will serve the 2,800 undergraduate and graduate students as well as services for employees and alumni. Additionally, the facility will serve over 300 school-age children who visit the campus each summer for Wesleyan's Summer Chemistry Camp and Tex-PREP programs and additional community organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club.

In addition to the improved health and quality of life for the campus students and other communities the Center will serve, the new facility will also be a new resource in recruitment of students to Texas Wesleyan University, retention of current students and as a resource for improved athletic training and preparation for student athletes. The facility will also serve as a significant benefit in enrollment for the Department of Kinesiology and the ATEP and further accreditation by the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM).

It is a great honor to recognize the contributions of the visionaries whose commitment has made the Jack and Jo Willa Morton Fitness Center a reality for the Texas Wesleyan University community. I am proud to represent these visionaries and Texas Wesleyan University in the House of Representatives.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN FANNON

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor John Fannon for his remarkable service to the town of Hillsborough, California.

John was—and is—never afraid to speak his mind, and that trait has proven invaluable